

Vaccines for pregnant members

Summary: Amerigroup Community Care wants to ensure our members have healthy pregnancies by covering vaccine services. Effective September 1, 2019, Amerigroup will reimburse participating OB/GYNs in our network for administering the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap), and flu vaccines in their office to pregnant members under the age of 19. The cost of the vaccines and administration will be reimbursed even if the OB/GYN does not participate in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. In addition to proper coding for the Tdap and flu vaccines, the claim must include a diagnosis code to indicate pregnancy.

Immunization health benefits

There are many health benefits to providing these immunizations to pregnant members:

- The Tdap vaccine protects pregnant women against tetanus (lockjaw), diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough).
- Immunizing expectant mothers against pertussis can help increase the fetus's immune system.
- Because of the changes in a woman's heart, lungs and immune system during pregnancy, getting these vaccines can help prevent serious illnesses and developmental issues for the fetus.
- Flu vaccines for the mother protect the infant from influenza after birth. Both immunizations show a long history of safety and value.

Tdap recommendations from industry leaders

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), online at <https://www.acog.org>, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), online at <https://www.cdc.gov>, both recommend the Tdap vaccine be administered to all pregnant women in the third trimester (27-36 weeks). They also recommend that all pregnant women receive the inactivated flu vaccine, which may be given at the same time as the Tdap.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, please contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.